

November
2008



CITY OF WICHITA

Neighborhood Services

Neighborhood Services– just around your corner

What does a Neighborhood Association and the Neighborhood Services Team have in common? Not surprisingly, there are many commonalities. Here are a few we are proud of:

1. **Relationship Building:** A Neighborhood Association is one of the best ways to build relationships between neighbors. Neighbors may go years without knowing other neighbors. A spirit of warmth and friendliness can be generated through the formation of a neighborhood group. Neighbors become familiar with each other's interests and needs and become more supportive. The Neighborhood Services Team builds relationships between City departments, NA and HOA groups, citizens who walk in our buildings or live in our neighborhoods and City staff. The lobbies and classrooms in our Neighborhood City Halls provide space for small groups or small communities to form and bond. The activities and programs we provide outside our buildings provide community participation and a feeling of belonging for many people and groups.
2. **Creating an Organized and Unified Voice:** Through an Association a neighborhood has a unified voice in City government. Services that the City provides can be accessed efficiently through the association. Information on City services can also be provided to a greater number of neighbors, a benefit to the neighborhood. The Neighborhood Services team is often the link between these Associations and the City departments and services needed. The team has positive ways of communicating and responding to associations that gain trust, build quality relationships and make a difference.
3. **Improving Neighborhoods:** If a neighborhood needs improvement, local residents are the best resources to help initiate change. Associations and City Departments can work together to develop long range beautification and improvement projects. Improving neighborhoods is one of the main goals of the Neighborhood Services team. We strive to provide both physical and educational resources to residents to help with their efforts to make their neighborhoods better. The NS team often partners with associations on projects such as dilapidated building repair, home repair resources and education, yard cleaning, bulky waste clean ups, neighborhood gardens, neighbor to neighbor training, inspection education, and volunteer opportunities.

It is important to have similar goals and objectives when working together. The goal is to make our neighborhoods and communities better places to live, and to continue to help all Wichita neighborhoods whether your neighborhood has an established Neighborhood Association or not.

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“Neighborhood Services is committed to providing your group or department with important information.

Please distribute this information to your co-workers and peers.”

District I/Atwater Neighborhood City Hall News

LaShonda Porter, Neighborhood Assistant-lporter@wichita.gov

During the 3rd Quarter of 2008, Atwater served 12,570 residents. 3rd quarter projects included: .

National American Association Environmental Education Pre-Conference Workshop -Wednesday, October 15th we hosted an environmental pre-conference workshop that allowed us to highlight the great efforts being made in the Wichita community. The pre-conference workshop hosted local residents and others from around the nation. The workshop included a tour of sites such as the Arena, Old Town, 21st Street Revitalization and more. After the tour the group returned to Atwater for more discussion on best practices and other exciting tools and projects in the Wichita community.

Atwater Neighborhood City Hall Extended Hours-In effort to meet the needs of the community the Atwater Neighborhood City Hall has extended its hours to Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Friday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. In addition to the extended hours we are offering evening computer classes, workshops, and more... Stop by our office to see what's available.

Sedgwick County Child Support Amnesty Program-Community Educator Patricia Houston partnered with Sedgwick County to host the 1st Child Support Amnesty Day. This program allowed residents to come and discuss their child support cases, make payment arrangements, and get outstanding warrants released. This project served both Sedgwick County and the people who had outstanding cases.

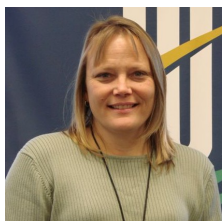
Voter Registration in the Park-Sponsored by the NAACP, Power 93.9 and Sunflower Community Action Group – Voter registration in the park was successful. These events registered approximately 175 – 200 residents, increasing the number of registered voters in the District I community.

District II News

Antione Sherfield, Neighborhood Assistant- asherfield@wichita.gov

Broadview Halloween Event-The Broadview Halloween Event brought several thousand people to the College Hill area. The Wichita Police Department did a wonderful job keeping the event safe and fun for all. **The Regent Grand Opening**-Wichita's newest Independent Living Community provided a sneak peak of its new location on December 4th at 9747 East 21st Street North, Suite 123. Vice-Mayor Schlapp was the guest speaker.

Mayor's Vision for Downtown Development- Mayor Carl Brewer attended District's II monthly breakfast in November. He provided his vision for the next phase of Downtown Redevelopment, which he envisions as everybody's neighborhood. We had a great turnout and enjoyed visiting with the Mayor. Please go to www.wichita.gov to see the video and presentation. **District II/Mayor's Youth Council Book Drive**-District II will be teaming up with the Mayor's Youth Council for a Book Drive. The purpose of this project is to provide students at Clark Elementary with reading materials for the spring semester. We will be soliciting new and used books. Please start looking for books around your home or office that are not being utilized. Contact asherfield@wichita.gov for more information.



New OCI Neighborhood Inspector- District II is happy to welcome Deb Shauers to District II. Deb has been with the City of Wichita for 14 years. She was currently a Neighborhood Inspector in District I. She brings a wealth of knowledge and we are pleased to have her in District II.

District III/ Colvin Neighborhood City Hall News

Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Assistant-jjohnson@wichita.gov

Construction Projects: Construction of Mt. Vernon Street, between the river and Broadway, is in full swing. At times, there will be no left turn allowed from Broadway and traffic will be limited to a single lane during construction. The walking/bike path that will connect Garvey and Planeview Parks is now in design and construction should begin next spring. The design work for Chapin Park continues. Plans for the park will be presented on December 3 at the DAB 3 meeting with construction slated to begin in 2009. Initial work has begun on the Oliver Street improvements with utility moves.

Revitalization: The START (Stopblight Action Response Team) Project continues in Hilltop. Winter projects will include landlord/tenant issues and other educational sessions. Several exterior grants have been awarded to homeowners and work will begin on those in the near future. The South Broadway Street Streetscape project has been designed and construction is expected to begin after the first of the year. Council Members Jim Skelton and LaVonta Williams designated funding for this joint project. The South Central Implementation Committee is comprised of citizens who work closely with City staff from Planning, Public Works, OCI, Police and Neighborhood Services to bring much needed improvements to this area.



Events: The Firefighters Museum Parade and Fall Festival was a big success this year with more than 500 citizens attending. Council Members Skelton , Williams and Fearey rode in the parade and then spent time visiting with residents. Plans are underway for the annual South Central Christmas Historical Tour. This is an event you don't want to miss -- more details to come.

District IV/Stanley Neighborhood City Hall News

Kelli Glassman, Neighborhood Assistant- kglassman@wichita.gov



Stanley NCH Hosts Health Fair- Stanley Neighborhood Services hosted a Health Fair on Tuesday, October 28 at Stanley Neighborhood City Hall/Stanley Elementary School. A little more than 260 people participated in the vent which promoted overall child health and welfare through educational information and other fun activities including dancing, prize giveaways, bowling, and tae kwon do demonstrations to name a few. Event sponsors included City of Wichita (Stanley Neighborhood City Hall, Aley/Stanley Recreation Center, Police Department, Fire Department), Pure and Simple Abstinence Education, Inc. , American Heart Association, , Kansas Learning Center for Health, Radio Disney, Sedgwick County WIC, Seneca Bowl, Small Smiles Dental Clinic, Stanley Elementary, USA Martial Arts, Youthville Family Consultation Service, Glennville Bible Baptist Church.

District V News

Megan Buckmaster, Neighborhood Assistant– mbuckmaster@wichita.gov

The **September Flood** event made a large impact on Wichita residents and businesses especially in West Wichita where in some areas such as Maple and Maize Road citizens saw a record breaking 12 inches of rain in 24 hours. Reports of damage and loss estimates are still being collected. The design options for the **Bridge over the Big Ditch** were presented in an open community meeting on October 8, 2008 at the Sedgwick County Extension office. Councilmember Longwell with Public Works staff were available to the public to answer questions and discuss specifics about the design options. The options will be presented to Council for vote and the funding will be discussed and voted on as well. The **West Kellogg Expansion project** was presented to Council in a Workshop on November 25th. The design is to convert Kellogg from an expressway to a freeway from 143rd Street west to 111th Street west. The proposed upgrade is a six-lane freeway with grade separation at 119th and 135th with frontage roads providing access to adjacent properties. **Fire Station #21** is on target for a Spring 2009 opening.

Fire Station # 21 construction is moving along for a Spring 2009 opening



District VI/Evergreen Neighborhood City Hall News

September Sports Spectacular-The Evergreen Neighborhood City Hall along with the Park and Recreation Department hosted the 2nd annual September Sports Spectacular for youth on Saturday, September 20, 2008 in Evergreen Park, 2700 N. Woodland. The estimated crowd was 1,500. The event hosted football games and clinics in tennis, basketball and, soccer along with learning boxing techniques. For our younger participants, a visit from Thunderdog, the Wichita Thunder hockey team's mascot, a bounce house and puppet show was available as added entertainment. The Police and Fire department also participated along with social service agencies specializing in youth needs. This event also provided information for anyone wanting to sign-up to participate in Park Department classes or recreational activities.

Evergreen Neighborhood City Hall hosted **Family Sunday Concert** in the Park series on the last Sunday in June and July. The music provided was sponsored by KYQQ Hispanic Radio station along with DJ services. During the hot afternoon, the participants were provided with free swimming offered by the Park and Recreation department with record numbers taking advantage of keeping cool. The participants were invited to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy with their families. Along with the music, there were also practice football and volleyball games and to round out the activities.

Adios Graffiti-Hello Art!-In efforts to combat graffiti in the 6th District, the second Westar Energy **Pole Painting Mural** was done in August at the corner of 19th and Waco streets. The pole artwork was done by local neighborhood artist ,Ricky Otano in coordination with the Neighborhood Assistant, Terri Dozal. The design was made to express Peace and Love into the high crime area. Many neighbors and on-lookers were very excited to see the design unfold and asked if more poles would be painted. In 2009 look for more artistic poles to be seen in District VI and less graffiti.

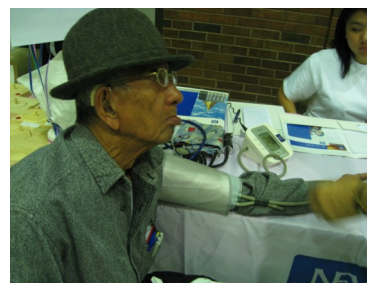
NORTHEAST: *Family Fun—Christmas Tree Ornament Crafts*-was held on Saturday, December 6th. Children stopped by the center and made ornaments for their holiday tree. A free tree was given away!

The Family Dinner was held on Monday, December 8th. The evening included cooking instruction for a simple one-pot meal to fill a family's stomach and information on how to use meal time to turn around your family's health. Given away was **new cookware, cookbooks** and ingredients to make the one-pot recipe for a family of four! This event was sponsored by the Kansas University Medical Center.

The Homework Huddle -5:00pm—6:00pm, Mondays & Wednesdays, (except holidays or during Winter and Spring Break)- We are providing a safe place in the community for students (2nd to 8th grade) to get their homework done with help from volunteers. No need to reserve a space just show up with your homework and we will help free you of the homework blues.

What Your Child Should Know by Kindergarten was held on Saturday, December 13th. 100 bags of information and free goodies were provided to parents with children 3 and under! This event was sponsored by the Children & Youth Roundtable.

SOUTH: *Asian Wellness Day* celebrated its 8th year in the community on Saturday October 4th at the Colvin Community Center. Originally this event started as a breast and cervical cancer event in 2000 and has since grown to provide overall health screenings, information on lung, colon, breast and cervical cancer, as well as, information on immunizations. Over 400 participants attended this year's event which included screenings, visiting booth vendors, children's activities, dragon dance, ethnic food, door prizes and presentations by two reputable doctors. 2008 event highlights: 72 Hepatitis B Screenings, 110 Diabetes Screenings, 30 Lead Screenings, 50 BMI Screenings



NORTHWEST: *HOPE STREET CLUB EVERGREEN* began on Tuesday, December 2nd at Evergreen Neighborhood City Hall. HOPE STREET is a leadership development program for middle and high school youth in Wichita, KS. The program is designed to empower youth with leadership skills that will shape their educational, career and life choices. Youth receive mentoring, homework help, computer time, recreation programs and library time. This program for youth is sponsored by Evergreen City Hall, Evergreen Park and Recreation, Hope Street Youth Development and the Wichita Police Department.

The Evergreen Christmas Walk: took place on Thursday, December 11th at the "Evergreen Campus" There was an opportunity for "walkers" to Visit all the facilities and meet the staff at each location-Evergreen Neighborhood City Hall, Evergreen Park and Recreation, Evergreen Library and the Grace Med Center. Two laps around the park equals a mile! We are promoting a healthy lifestyle for all of us!

Spring Gardening: Learn how to prepare a spring garden and get tips for garden vegetables with a Sedgwick County Horticulture Agent. This class will include planning and preparing the soil and information on when to plant. Classes start in February 2009. For more information and the class schedule visit www.wichita.gov and click on the neighborhoods link.



2008 Citizens Academy-On November 4th, 14 citizens were recognized for completing this year's Citizens Academy. Citizens Academy is a program coordinated through the City Manager's Office Neighborhood Services Division that began approximately five years ago and was created to educate participants about City functions and operations in hopes of developing citizen leaders. Citizens Academy is an eight-week interactive program that provides informative presentations on various City departments, as well as, interesting tours of City facilities to help participants become more familiar with the structure and functions of City government. After completion of the course, participants often become active neighborhood and city leaders, participating in neighborhood association activities; as well as, serving on City boards and commissions.

The 2008 fall graduates are: Patricia Bartlett, Melody Bruce, Paul Corn, Merle Curtis, Emily Domitrovic, Eddy Gale, Randi Harms, Albert Hubl, Shirley Kelley, Abby Miller, Barbara Oldham, Lynda Sims, Mike Vestweber, and Patricia White.